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February 2, 2006

House Transportation Committee

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of HB 309 - a bill requiring a 2% blend of biodiesel in diesel fuel sold in Montana. This bill is good for Montana. This bill is good for Montana Agriculture and an emerging renewable fuels industry in Montana. For example, we currently employ 25 individuals in Culbertson Montana at the Montola oilseed crush plant. With passage of this bill we will increase our employees by 100% and double the \$70,000/month salaries and wages provided by our payroll. This works out to over \$1.68MM in retained and new annual wages in Eastern Montana. This does not include our benefits package of an additional \$504,000 per year.

Montana is a leader and sets an important example for the rest of our country. Our values are different here. We believe in independence and self reliance. Well, lets be energy independent and self reliant. HB 309 is the first step towards this goal.

Our producers will benefit from this bill. Increasing demand for oilseed crops will create more value in the oilseed crops and more value in all crops produced. The affect of the ethanol industry on Midwestern corn prices and farm profitability is astounding. HB 309 will have a similar impact on Montana oilseed prices and farm profitability.

We support the various conditions and exemptions in the bill. We also support a quality standard - the BQ 9000 quality assurance/quality control measures. This industry standard of excellence ensures that quality of production from the field to the fuel tank.

There are no technological barriers to implementing a B2 blend in the state. Incentives are currently in place for blending equipment at fuel racks and refineries. Blending will occur at the rack under controlled conditions. No blending would occur at the retail level. There is no economic downside to this bill.

This bill is good for the citizens of Montana and is timely in regard to the state of the biofuel industry in Montana and the state of energy security in our Nation. We strongly encourage the members of the committee to support this beneficial legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul T. Miller  
President/Managing Member